

Claims

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2 1. A medical device for attaching soft tissue to a bone comprising a bone anchor and a
3 protective cover formed from a solid mass of biocompatible material, wherein said bone anchor
4 is substantially encapsulated in said mass.

1 2. The protective cover of claim 1, wherein said mass is substantially deformable.

1 3. The protective cover of claim 1, wherein said mass is substantially brittle.

1 4. The protective cover of claim 1, wherein said mass comprises a bioabsorbable material.

1 5. The protective cover of claim 4, wherein said bioabsorbable material is selected from the
2 group consisting of cross-linked alginated gel, cross-linked collagen, cross-linked hyaluronic
3 acid hydrogel, polylactic-co-glycolic acid, polylactic acid, polyglycolic acid, polyurethane.

1 6. The protective cover of claims 1, further comprising an antimicrobial material.

1 7. The protective cover of claim 6, wherein said antimicrobial material comprises an
2 antibiotic.

1 8. The protective cover of claim 7, wherein said antibiotic is selected from the group
2 consisting of nafcillin, aminoglycoside, ciprofloxin, piperacillin/tazobactum,
3 ampicillin/sulbactum, vancomycin, cephalosporin, TMP/SMX, ampicillin, gentamicin,
4 tobramycin, and ciprofloxacin.

1 9. The protective cover of claim 8, wherein said antibiotic is disposed within said
2 bioabsorbable material to form said cover.

1 10. The protective cover of claim 8, wherein said antibiotic is applied to at least one surface
2 of said protective cover.

1 11. A method of inserting a bone anchor into a bone, comprising:

2 (a) providing a bone anchor;

3 (b) providing a protective cover adapted to encapsulate said bone anchor;

4 (c) encapsulating said bone anchor in said protective cover;

5 (d) locating a bone anchor implantation site on a bone; and

6 (e) causing said bone anchor to penetrate said protective cover and implant in said bone.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein said bone anchor is encapsulated in said protective
2 cover prior to engagement of said bone anchor to an implantation device.

1 13. The method of claim 11, wherein said bone anchor is encapsulated in said protective
2 cover after engagement of said bone anchor to an implantation device.

1 14. The method of claim 11, wherein said protective cover for encapsulating a bone anchor
2 comprises a generally ellipsoidal mass.

1 15. The method of claim 14, wherein said mass is substantially deformable.

1 16. The method of claim 14, wherein said mass is substantially brittle.

1 17. The method of claim 14, wherein said mass comprises a bioabsorbable material.

1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein said bioabsorbable material is selected from the group
2 consisting of cross-linked alginated gel, cross-linked collagen, cross-linked hyaluronic acid
3 hydrogel, polylactic-co-glycolic acid, polylactic acid, polyglycolic acid, polyurethane.

1 19. The method of claims 18, wherein said protective cover further comprises an antibiotic.

1 20. The method of claim 19, wherein said antibiotic is selected from the group consisting of
2 nafcillin, aminoglycoside, ciprofloxin, piperacillin/tazobactum, ampicillin/sulbactum,
3 vancomycin, cephalosporin, TMP/SMX, ampicillin, gentamicin, tobramycin, and ciprofloxacin.

1 21. The method of claim 20, wherein said antibiotic is disposed within said bioabsorbable
2 material to form said cover.

1 22. The method of claim 20, wherein said antibiotic is applied to at least one surface of said
2 protective cover.